

Breast and Cervical Health

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Maine Department of Health and Human Services

- ❑ In 2008, it is estimated that 990 women will be newly diagnosed with breast cancer, and approximately 190 women will die from breast cancer.*
- ❑ Annually in Maine, an average of 55 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and an average of 15 women die from cervical cancer.**
- ❑ It is estimated that 30,224 women are in need of breast and cervical cancer screening services annually, based on health insurance coverage and income.
- ❑ If women age 50 and older obtain regular screening for breast cancer, up to 32% of breast cancer deaths could be prevented. Virtually all of cervical cancer deaths could be prevented through regular screenings.

- * American Cancer Society,
2008 Cancer Facts and Figures
- ** Maine Cancer Registry,
1999-2003



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Maine is one of over 68 states and tribal organizations that have received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to implement a comprehensive breast and cervical cancer early detection program. Early detection is currently the best way to combat breast and cervical cancer. The funding from CDC makes it possible to save lives by offering cancer screening to more women in Maine.

Program Goals:

- ❑ To reduce breast and cervical cancer morbidity and mortality through early detection, public and professional education, quality assurance and surveillance;
- ❑ To provide breast and cervical cancer screening and follow-up services to low-income Maine women;
- ❑ To provide public education to encourage all Maine women to obtain regular breast and cervical cancer screening;
- ❑ To provide professional education in breast and cervical cancer control issues;
- ❑ To provide assistance and support to health professionals and health care organizations to assure the quality of services delivered;
- ❑ To implement surveillance and evaluation systems to monitor the status of the diseases and progress of the program;
- ❑ To link women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer to MaineCare for treatment.

Priority Populations:

Women over the age of 50 (limited openings for women age 40-49, and symptomatic women age 35-39) at or under 250% of the federal poverty level, who have no coverage, or insufficient coverage, for breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services may be eligible for the program. Special emphasis is on women over the age of 50, as well as uninsured and underinsured women, lesbians, Native Americans, and other racial, ethnic, and cultural minorities.

Program Activities

The program funds nearly 300 sites in the State to provide screening and diagnostic services and community-based public education and support services. Primary care sites provide clinical breast exams, pelvic exams, and Pap tests, refer women for mammography, and coordinate services for participating women. Mammography facilities provide screening and diagnostic mammograms. Laboratories provide cytology and pathology services. Other health care professionals provide diagnostic services on referral, such as colposcopy and breast biopsies. Community partnerships funded by the program provide public education, peer education programs, transportation and other support services.

Funding Sources

The program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), under the national Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The cooperative agreement provides approximately \$1.8 million per year from CDC, which is matched with funding from the state of Maine and in-kind support totaling \$1 (state) for every \$3 (federal).